



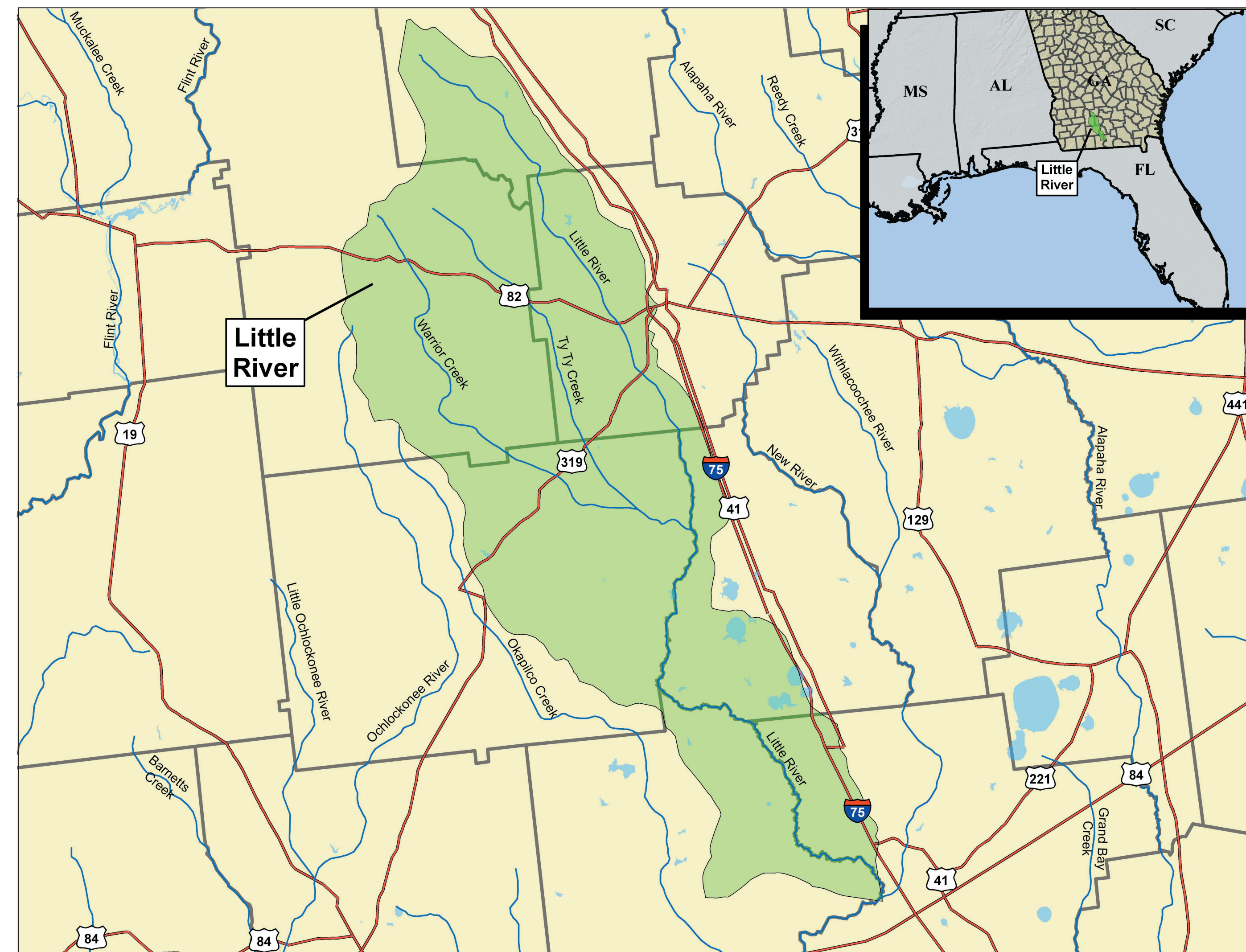
United States Department of Agriculture

# Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP)

*Little River Watershed, Georgia: 2004-2006*



An ARS\* Benchmark Research Watershed, one of 24 CEAP watershed projects.



## Approach

**Water sampling:** Oxygen, pesticides, phosphorus, nitrate-nitrogen, sediment, and temperature.

**Watershed models:** A systems model will be developed for predicting effects of conservation initiatives, land use changes, and irrigation water needs.

**Assess practices:** Plot and small watershed experiments will examine effects of best management practices (BMPs) on chemical and sediment transport in both Georgia Coastal Plain and South Florida agro-ecosystems.

Large-scale studies will assess effects on runoff quantity and aquifer recharge.

## Communicating Results

Three annual progress reports, recommendations on BMPs for improving water quality.

## Collaborators

- USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Geological Survey
- Georgia Cotton Commission
- Georgia Environmental Protection Division
- University of Georgia
- Georgia Technical Institute

## Contact

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**NRCS State Conservationist**  
James Tillman



Irrigation water management field evaluation.



Clean till vegetables on plastic.



Garmin GPS hand held unit.

## CEAP Assessment

Evaluate effects of riparian buffers and other practices in reducing pesticide, nutrient, and sediment water pollution.

### Watershed Description

- Near Tifton, Georgia
- 82,560 acres
- 40% woodland, 36% cropland, 18% pasture
- Georgia has designated many streams as impaired by low dissolved oxygen levels.

### Issues:

Runoff from farms carries pesticides, nutrients, and soil through dense forests to slow-moving streams that eventually pour into the Suwannee River.

Effects of drought on irrigation water supplies.

\*Agricultural Research Service

## Timeline

**2005**

**December** 1st ARS Benchmark Watersheds progress report

**2006**

**December** 2nd ARS Benchmark Watersheds progress report

**2007**

**December** 3rd ARS Benchmark Watersheds progress report

**2008**

**December** 4th ARS Benchmark Watersheds progress report